

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A magnetic recording medium having a high coercive force and being capable of high-density writing/reading has a substrate, a soft magnetic layer, a non-magnetic intermediate layer, a magnetic layer, a protective layer, and a lubricating layer. The magnetic layer is characterized by stacking fault density and dispersion of particle diameters. The stacking fault density should preferably be no larger than 0.05, and the dispersion of particle diameters should preferably be no larger than 0.4. The magnetic recording medium has a coercive force larger than 4000 Oe, is highly stable to thermal decay, and has a recording density in excess of 50 Gbit/in<sup>2</sup>.